

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0044

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USDEL ATLANTA 0038

USDEL 25

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: USDEL STATEMENT ON RESTRUCTURING - AGENDA ITEM 10 -
APRIL 27, 1974

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT ON RESTRUCTURING THE
INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM (AGENDA ITEM 10) MADE BY US
AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD IN APRIL 26 SESSION OF OASGA GENERAL
COMMITTEE.

2. QUOTE:

THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN:

SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, IN HIS ADDRESS TO THIS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY EXPRESSED THE WIDELY HELD VIEW THAT THE INTER-AMERICAN
SYSTEM REQUIRES MODERNIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT TO NEW CONDITIONS.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT OUR TASK AT THIS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS TO BEGIN TO TRANSLATE THE SPIRIT OF
TLATELOLCO INTO THE WORKINGS OF THE OAS AND THE OTHER AGENCIES
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.

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A GREAT DEAL HAS HAPPENED SINCE LAST YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND RESOLUTION 127. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, EVEN IF IT DID NOT PRODUCE THE HOPED FOR RESULTS, SHARPENED THE ISSUES AND DEFINED THE PROBLEMS IN A WAY THAT WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE HAD WE SOUGHT TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES OF THE NEW DECADE THROUGH A BUSINESS AS USUAL APPROACH. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU FOR THE ENERGY AND HOSPITALITY IT DISPLAYED AS HOST TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

NOW, WITH THE GUIDANCE GIVEN TO US BY THE FIRST RESULTS OF THE NEW DIALOGUE, WE CAN BEGIN AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO UTILIZE THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM IN A PRACTICAL WAY SO AS TO GATHER THE FRUITS OF THIS DIALOGUE.

AS THIS DELEGATION SEES IT, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD SPUR THE PROCESS OF REFORM OF THE OAS BEGUN LAST YEAR IN THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND PROVIDE DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE TO THE REFORM EFFORT IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. THE GUIDANCE SHOULD BE OF TWO KINDS: SPECIFIC GUIDANCE ON THE AREAS TO WHICH THE REFORM EFFORT SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY AND PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE THAT WILL ORIENT THE REFORM EFFORT TOWARD A MORE FLEXIBLE AND LESS TIME CONSUMING PROCESS.

I WOULD SUGGEST A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THREE BROAD AREAS OF REFORM, EACH TO BE CONSIDERED A SEPARATE TASK OF THE EFFORT:

1. WHAT WE MIGHT CALL THE SUBSTANTIVE REFORMS OF THE OAS CHARTER;
2. THE MODERNIZATION OF THE RIO TREATY; AND
3. THE REFORM OF THE FORMAL STRUCTURAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE OAS AND THE INSTITUTION OF MORE FLEXIBLE PROCEDURES.

ALL OF US I THINK EXPECT TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS WITH RESPECT TO THE CONCEPTUAL REFORM OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. I WOULD NOTE HERE, BECAUSE I BELIEVE MANY OF THE DELEGATES MAY NOT BE AWARE OF WHAT THE U.S. HAS DONE, THAT DURING THE LAST SESSION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, JUST BEFORE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MET IN WASHINGTON, THE UNITED STATES WITHDREW, IN THE SPIRIT OF TLATELOLCO, SEVERAL RESERVATIONS TO DRAFT ARTICLES FOR A REVISED OAS

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CHARTER AND PUT FORTH SOME IDEAS FOR MODERNIZING THE RIO TREATY.

IN ADDITION TO THE CONCEPTUAL REFORM OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS THAT HAS BEEN THE FOCUS OF OUR DIALOGUE AND ON WHICH WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN RECENT MONTHS, WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT REFORMS IN THE STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS OF THE OAS ARE IMPORTANT.

- WE THINK THAT ANY SUCH REFORM OF THE STRUCTURE SHOULD

BE ON A TWO-STAGE BASIS; FIRST A SERIES OF INTERIM REFORMS TAKEN THROUGH FLEXIBLE INTERPRETATION OF THE CURRENT CHARTER, THERE TO BE FOLLOWED BY AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER ITSELF.

- IN THE AREA OF STRUCTURAL REFORM WE COULD FOCUS ON SEVERAL IMPORTANT PROBLEMS. AND I SHOULD ADD THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT PRETEND TO HAVE ANY FINAL ANSWERS AND THAT MANY OF OUR IDEAS ARE BASED ON THOUGHTS SOME OF YOU HAVE ADVANCED HERE AND IN OTHER PLACES.

- WE THINK WE SHOULD CONSIDER:

(1) WHETHER TO INSTALL THE CONCEPT OF INFORMAL DIALOGUE AMONG US ON MAJOR ISSUES AT ALL LEVELS OF OAS MEETINGS.

(2) WHAT WE SHOULD DO ABOUT THE TIME-CONSUMING, ROUTINE ASPECTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(3) HOW TO INVIGORATE THE WORK OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL.

(4) HOW TO MAKE THE OAS INTO A MORE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTION, AND IN THIS CONNECTION WHETHER WE SHOULD COMBINE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE INTO AN INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

(5) HOW TOO MAKE THE OAS INTO A MORE VALUABLE VEHICLE FOR ECONOMIC CONSULTATION, AND HOW TO PROVIDE, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE BAHAMAS AND GUYANA BECOME MEMBERS, FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN OAS CONSULTATIVE FORUMS IF THEY WISH TO DO SO.

EXTEND THE DIALOGUE TO THE OAS

-- WE HAVE LEARNED SOME THINGS FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTERS
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MEETING AND FROM THE IA-ECOSOC MEETING IN QUITO THAT OUGHT TO BE MADE APPLICABLE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD MAKE IT A PRACTICE AT OAS MEETINGS TO PROVIDE FOR CLOSED GATHERINGS OF THE MINISTERS OR OTHER PRINCIPAL DELEGATES -- WITHOUT MINUTES OR FORMALITIES.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

-- THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE PRINCIPAL BODY OF THE OAS, BUT MUCH OF ITS BUSINESS IS ROUTINE. PERHAPS WE CAN FIND WAYS TO ASSURE THAT GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OPERATE IN SUCH A WAY THAT OUR FOREIGN MINISTERS DO NOT HAVE TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH ROUTINE MATTERS.

RATIONALIZING THE COUNCIL STRUCTURE

-- WE SUGGEST CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING IDEAS:

- MERGING THE TWO COUNCILS NOW CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENT INTO AN INTER-AMERICA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THUS ENDING THE ARTIFICIAL SPLITTING APART OF THE DEVELOPMENT AREA AND REINFORCING THE ABILITY OF THE OAS TO HANDLE IT MORE EFFICIENTLY:

- STRENGTHENING THE PERMANENT COUNCIL TO HANDLE NON-TECHNICAL OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS;

- PROVIDING THE ASSEMBLY AND THESE COUNCILS WITH INDEPENDENT EXPERT ADVICE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS.

- UNDER THE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PROPOSAL:

- UNTIL THE CHARTER IS AMENDED, THE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MIGHT BE BROUGHT INTO THE DE FACTO EXISTENCE BY HOLDING THE MEETINGS OF THE TWO TECHNICAL COUNCILS TOGETHER, AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE TO CONSIDER A COMMON AGENDA.

- THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THESE TWO COUNCILS MIGHT POSSIBLY BE MERGED, AND THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 USDEL ATLANTA 0038

USDEL 25

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- BUT NO MATTER HOW THESE QUESTIONS MAY BE DECIDED, IT IS
OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR US TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION
TO THE TASK OF MAKING THE ORGANIZATION A MORE EFFECTIVE
INSTRUMENT FOR PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT.

- THE PERMANENT COUNCIL:

- THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CAN ADOPT, WITHIN THE PRESENT CHARTER,
DECISIONS THAT WOULD CONFIRM THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AS
THE CENTRAL "BOARD OF DIRECTORS" OF THE OAS. THIS WOULD
INVOLVE THE REVIEW OF NON-TECHNICAL SECTIONS OF THE PROGRAM
AND BUDGET; COORDINATION OF ONGOING OAS ACTIVITIES, AND THE
REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS.

- UNDER THE EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL:

- THIS WOULD BE A NEW BODY SIMILAR IN MANY RESPECTS TO
THAT ALREADY TESTED IN PRACTICE IN THE UN, SMALL IN SIZE AND
STAFFED BY HIGHLY COMPETENT PEOPLE. IT WOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF
BOTH THE MEMBER DELEGATIONS AND THE SECRETARIAT AND THUS IN A
POSITION TO RENDER IMPARTIAL ADVICE ON HOW TO ACHIEVE
EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMY OF OPERATIONS.

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EVENTUAL CHARTER AMENDMENTS

-- SOME AMENDMENT OF THE OAS CHARTER WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE NECESSARY
IN ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES WE AGREE UPON,
PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. BUT THIS
WOULD BE DONE ONLY AFTER THE WORKABILITY OF THE SUGGESTED
ARRANGEMENTS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN DEMONSTRATED DURING AN INTERIM
PERIOD SO THAT WE HAVE SOME EVIDENCE THAT THE CHANGES WE WISH
TO MAKE ARE WORKABLE.

-- IF WE WAIT FOR CHARTER REFORM, AND THE TWO OR THREE YEARS THAT
IT TAKES TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS OF RATIFICATION, WE MAY HAVE LOST
THE HISTORICAL MOMENT. WE ARE NOT WEDDED TO THE SUGGESTIONS I HAVE
MADE HERE, BUT THE PROCESS OF DIALOGUE AMONG OURSELVES AND AT THE

WORKING LEVEL IN ATLANTA OUGHT TO BEGIN TO PRODUCE SOME PRACTICAL STRUCTURAL REFORMS.

-- IF THERE WERE AGREEMENT, SOME OF THE IDEAS THAT YOU AND WE HAVE PUT FORTH HERE IN ATLANTA, COULD BE ACTUALLY PUT INTO EFFECT BY THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. OTHERS, SUCH AS THE SUGGESTION FOR A SINGLE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, PROBABLY REQUIRE FURTHER STUDDY, BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED.

THESE IDEAS ARE PUT FORWARD FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN AN EFFORT TO TAKE SOME PRACTICAL STEPS NOW TO INITIATE STRUCTURAL REFORMS WHICH DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT UPON THE LENGTHY PROCESS OF CHARTER REVISION AND RATIFICATION. I THINK THAT OUR RESPECTIVE PEOPLES ARE EXPECTING CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT THE SPIRIT OF TLATELOLCO IS IN FACT CLEARING AWAY SOME OF THE ROAD BLOCKS TO INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION.

MOST OF THESE IDEAS ARE NOT NEW, BUT PERHAPS THEY ARE IDEAS WHOSE TIME HAS COME. IF THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG US UPON THE WISDOM OF THESE IDEAS, THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE CANNOT ACT UPON THEM HERE AND NOW.

ANYONE WHO HAS LISTENED TO THE EXPOSITIONS ON THIS SUBJECT MUST BE AWARE THAT WE ARE ALL SEEKING THE GOAL, EVEN THOUGH THE PROPOSALS MAY VARY SOMEWHAT.

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FINALLY, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT AFTER WE HAVE COMPLETED THE PRESENTATION OF THE VIEWS AND PROPOSALS OF OUR GOVERNMENT THAT WE MIGHT PROVIDE FOR AN INFORMAL, CLOSED SESSION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR A DIALOGUE ON HOW WE PROCEED WITH THIS AGENDA ITEM. WE MIGHT THEN POSSIBLY ENTRUST A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS ALREADY SUBMITTED AND OTHER THOUGHTS EXPRESSED HERE THAT MAY BE ORGANIZED TO REFLECT WHATEVER GENERAL AGREEMENT WE MAY FIND AMONG US.

I HOPE OTHER MEMBERS WILL GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THIS SUGGESTION, SINCE WE MIGHT PROVIDE A USEFUL PRECEDENT FOR EXPEDITING OUR WORK.

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